

DODGE COUNTY
JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
September 7, 2018

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chair, MaryAnn Miller, at 8:00 a.m.; a quorum was established with the following members present:

MaryAnn Miller
Dan Hilbert
Thomas Nickel
Larry Schraufnagel
Eugene Wurtz

Also Present: James Mielke, County Administrator; Russell Kottke, Dodge County Board Chairman; Steven Bauer, Circuit Court Judge; Joseph Sciascia, Circuit Court Judge; Brian Pfitzinger, Circuit Court Judge; Lynn Hron, Clerk of Courts; Kurt Klomberg, District Attorney; Bob Barrington, District Attorney Managing Attorney; Bernie Mueller, Child Support Agency; Dale Schmidt, Dodge County Sheriff; Scott Mittelstadt, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office; Patrick Schoebel, Medical Examiner; Sandy Bird, Br. 1 Judicial Assistant; Judy Haadad - Citizen

Miller certifies compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Approval of Agenda and Allow for Deviation: Motion made by Thomas Nickel to approve Agenda and to allow for deviation; second by Larry Schraufnagel. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Larry Schraufnagel to approve Minutes of August 3, 2018; second by Thomas Nickel. Motion carried.

Communications: None

Circuit Court/Judge's Report: None

By agreement of the Committee, Item 7 of the Agenda was moved.

Jim Mielke discusses the courtroom upgrades to the cameras and microphones. They will be hiring a consulting firm. They had two (2) firms put in bids and they were evaluated. The IT committee also reviewed and endorsed them and put in a request for a general transfer fund of \$70,000 for the consulting firm. \$650,000 is the budget for the project.

Attorney Barrington and Judge Pfitzinger indicated the problems with the current system and being able to only hold one (1) video conference hearing at a time.

Statement by Eugene Wurtz as to the initial system. Statements were also made by Judge Bauer and Jim Mielke as to the current problems and the costs involved.

A vote was taken to support resolution. The vote passed unanimously.

Clerk of Courts Report: Lynn Hron reported that her office received new printers and that they had just ordered new ink cartridges and now they don't work with the new printers. She gave a budget update that the e-filing has lightened the work load in her office and also indicated that she won't be getting as much reimbursement from the Child Support Agency.

There has been an increase in setting jury trials so her budget will be higher for next year and there will be an increase in the bailiff wages.

The current open position will be funded for 6 months for next year and she will need to decide in June if they will be filling that position or not.

Child Support Report: Bernie Mueller reported that from the reimbursement to birth expenses her office gets 15% back as revenue and as of July 1, 2018, if the parties live together they cannot ask for birth expenses which cut into her revenue. In October, they will be getting a new processing system. They need to get new printers because they are going through toner cartridges but they will get 66% reimbursement from the State for that.

District Attorney Report: Kurt Klomberg and Bob Barrington report that Kathy Zwieg has retired. They are posting her position. They received approximately 50 applicants and will start interviewing soon. Their paralegal Amber Lesniak will be leaving their office at the end of the month. That job is also now being posted. Attorney Barrington indicated his budget for next year will be \$35,824. Attorney Klomberg indicates that they are at 65% short staffed for attorneys, two (2) prosecutors short and has made a request for that which will be no cost to the County as it will be funded by the State.

Medical Examiner Report: Patrick Schoebel is asking for a decrease in total monies; \$20,000 less. His department is working with Milwaukee County on autopsies which charge \$1,500 per autopsy. The State reimburses them for inmate autopsies.

Sheriff Office Report: Sheriff Schmidt reports that one (1) Lieutenant has retired, which will be effective September 15, 2018. That position will remain vacant. Diane Dahl's position has been filled.

The Citizen Academy starts September 12, 2018, with Detective Willman running that program.

The closing of Pod J has affected them greatly with the removal of 8 people/slots (which those spots are already vacant). He indicated they are right on par with the standards for staffing. One (1) program staff has been cut.

There are 5 open patrol spots for next year, with one (1) unfunded position. Three (3) new positions open; two (2) new deputies and one (1) Sheriff Deputy, which is unfunded. They are defunding one (1) drug task force position. They have cut back on patrol and jail over time.

The replacement plan for squad cars is that 7 new cars are needed; with three (3) cut and only four (4) have been replaced (replacement policy is 5 year or 150,000 miles – whichever is 2nd). There have been cuts to equipment (firearms, tasers) with \$30,000 cut from the SWAT Team.

Scott Mittelstadt reports that the budget as compared to Walworth and Outagamie Counties, there is a levy amount increase - \$2.2 million increase over last year.

For 2019 there is a 160 contract- beds per day budgeted for federal inmates. 258 was budgeted for 2018. The current charge is \$75/day per bed. The State charges \$51.26/day but does not include medical care.

Sheriff Schmidt reported that the K9 Golf Scramble is today and it has raised approximately \$9,000 in the past for the K9 units.

Committee Reports: Eugene Wurtz reported on attending the WCA Steering Committee with discussions as to the 676 Senate Bill regarding Protective Status. Chairman Miller also contributed to the report.

Thomas Nickel clarifies that Protective Status allows officers to retire at the age of 52 instead of 55 years old.

Informational Presentation: Attorney Klomberg gave an informational presentation about the challenges of being a District Attorney; staffing issues were discussed. Dodge County is in the middle of the state for prosecutor understaffing at 65%. He noted that while the State has not met its obligation, the County has met its obligation and thanked the County for its support. Good management practices are also a challenge. DA's are selected because they are effective prosecutors and not for their management abilities. Management skills are not taught in law school. Still the DA is expected to be a manager and poor DA management can have very negative consequences on the entire court system. He thanked the County for recognizing this and creating the Managing Attorney position to ensure that good prosecution is combined with good management. Another challenge is that the Supreme Court Rules impose a supervisory duty on the DA over law enforcement. While the duty exists, the DA is not given traditional tools of supervision. The DA provides policies and guidance to assist law enforcement in meeting its legal and ethical obligations.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 5, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Justice Facility.

Adjournment: Motion by Thomas Nickel to adjourn meeting; second by Dan Hilbert. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.



Larry Schraunagel, Secretary

Sandra D. Bird, Recording Secretary